

Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 PRS-01 SAM-01 /024 W

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P R 161503Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3951

INFO AMCONSUL IBADAN

AMCONSUL KADUNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 3232

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NI, US

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S VISIT TO NIGERIA

REF: (A) LAGOS 2207 (B) LAGOS 2722 (C) STATE 54847

1. FMG REMAINS HEAVILY PREOCCUPIED WITH INTERNAL SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS AND CONTINUALLY SPREADING RAMIFICATIONS OF ONGOING COUP ATTEMPT PROBE. PRESS IS FULL OF RAMBLING DIMKA REVELATIONS ABOUT COUP PLOT AND THOSE INVOLVED; NEW ARRESTS ARE BEING MADE; MARCH 11 PUBLIC EXECUTIONS WILL BE FOLLOWED BY MORE; CALLS FOR EXTRADITION OF GOWON FROM THE U.K. ARE GROWING IN INTENSITY; CHARGES OF U.S. COMPLICITY AND CALLS FOR RETALIATORY ACTION CONTINUE DAILY IN PRESS. SPECIAL RESTRICTIONS HAVE BEEN IMPOSED ON FOREIGN DIPLOMATIC TRAVEL IN NIGERIA. EXPECTATION IS WIDESPREAD THAT GENERAL OBASANJO MAY SERVE AS HEAD OF STATE FOR ONLY A TEMPORARY PERIOD BECAUSE OF NORTHERN UNWILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT YORUBA IN THAT CAPACITY.

2. IN LIGHT ABOVE, WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE IT PRUDENT TO LET FMG KNOW WE APPRECIATE THAT THE TRAGIC EVENTS OF THE PAST MONTH HAVE BEEN PROFOUNDLY UNSETTLING AND TO ASK FOR RE-CONFIRMATION THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER'S VISIT WOULD STILL BE CONVENIENT IN SECOND HALF OF APRIL. WHILE WE BELIEVE FMG RESPONSE WILL BE AFFIRMATIVE, WE THINK UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES THEY WOULD EXPECT AT LEAST TO BE ASKED.

THE APPROACH COULD BE MADE IN WASHINGTON, AS SUGGESTED PARA 2 REFTEL A, OR WE COULD MAKE IT HERE IF DEPARTMENT SO AUTHORIZES.

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3. ONCE WE HAVE CONFIRMATION THAT TIMING OF SECRETARY'S VISIT IS
ACCEPTABLE, WE WILL WISH DISCUSS DETAILS OF VISIT SCHEDULE WITH FMG.
REQUEST APPROXIMATE DATE(S) OF VISIT (WITH ESTIMATED ARRIVAL
AND DEPARTURE TIMES IF POSSIBLE, ALONG WITH
AUTHORIZATION TO DISCUSS SCHEDULE WITH FMG AFTER QUESTION PARA 2
ABOVE IS CLARIFIED.
EASUM

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